STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Re: 2004 and 2006 Biennial Regulatory Reviews - Streamlining and Other Revisions of Parts 1 and 17 of the Commission's Rules Governing Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures, WT Docket No. 10-88, Amendments to Modernize and Clarify Part 17 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures, RM 11349

The world has gone wireless. Already in this country we have more mobile phones than people. By the end of the decade we expect to have as many as 50 billion devices communicating wirelessly worldwide with the Internet of Things. All of this activity in our airwaves puts a premium on spectrum.

So around here, spectrum usually gets all of the glory. But not today. Today, in this Report and Order, we acknowledge that wireless infrastructure is the unsung hero of the wireless revolution. Because no amount of spectrum will lead to better wireless service without good—and safe—infrastructure.

To give infrastructure its due, we streamline Commission rules governing construction, marking, and lighting of antenna structures. This clears the way for speeding our Antenna Structure Registration process. It clarifies the obligations of owners of antenna structures. It also harmonizes our rules with policies from the Federal Aviation Administration. This last point is important, because keeping these rules up to date helps ensure the safety of pilots and aircraft passengers nationwide. All around, these are good things. Moreover, they bring an overdue bit of attention to the nitty-gritty role infrastructure plays in making our wireless world possible.